

WHEREFORE, WE CLAIM

1. A system for delivering printed packets of information or messages to intended recipients of said packets, said system including:

means for receiving and storing the packets to be delivered;

a wireless network for transmitting said packets to said recipients; and

a network of printer appliances adapted to receive, selectively process and print only those packets intended to be processed and printed by the respective appliance.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein said system further includes a subscriber directory for storing subscriber information concerning the intended recipients of said packets.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein said system further includes a database manager for processing said packets from said means for receiving and storing said packets and the subscriber information from said subscriber directory.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein said system further includes a transmission sequence compiler for placing the packets to be delivered into a predetermined order of transmission to the printer appliances.

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5. The system of claim 4, wherein said system further includes at least one modem for conveying said packets from said transmission sequence compiler to said wireless network.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein each of said printer appliances is adapted to receive all of said packets and process only those packets intended to be processed by said appliance.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein each of said printer appliances is adapted to provide printed copies of said packets using a thermal printer.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein each of said printer appliances is adapted to transfer said packets to an electronic smart card for subsequent use by the recipient.

9. The system of claim 1, wherein said packets are redeemable coupons.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein said packets are selected from the group consisting of redeemable coupons, messages, appointment reminders, event tickets, warnings, alerts, and advertisements.

11. A system for delivering printed packets of information to intended recipients of said packets, said system including:

a bank for receiving and storing the packets to be delivered;

a subscriber directory for storing the names and information of intended recipients of said packets;

a database manager for processing the packets from the bank and subscriber information from said subscriber directory and identifying those recipients eligible for receiving said packets;

a pager network for transmitting said packets to said recipients;

a transmission sequence compiler for placing the packets to be delivered into a predetermined order of transmission to the printer appliances; and

a network of printer appliances adapted to selectively receive, process and print said packets, said printer appliances being adapted to process and print only selected packets.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein said system further includes a transmission sequence compiler for placing the packets to be delivered into a predetermined order of transmission to the printer appliances.

13. The system of claim 11, wherein said system further includes a

modem bank including at least one modem for conveying said packets from said transmission sequence compiler to said pager network.

14. The system of claim 11, wherein said packets are selected from the group consisting of redeemable coupons, messages, appointment reminders, event tickets, warnings, alerts, and advertisements.

15. The system of claim 11, wherein each of said printer appliances has a unique appliance code number.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein said database manager is adapted to identify the intended recipients of said packets prior to transmission by identifying the appliance code number of the characteristics of its owner.

17. A method for transmitting packets of information over a pager network to a network of remote printer appliances, each of said appliances including means to receive and selectively print predetermined packets, said method comprising the steps of:

transmitting one or more of said packets over said pager network to all appliances, each of said packets including a destination identifier to identify only those printer appliances intended to process and print a particular packet;

and

receiving all of said packets at each of said appliances, said appliance being adapted to decode said destination identifier and selectively process and print only those packets intended to be processed and printed by said appliance.

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~~20~~. The method of claim ¹⁷~~19~~, wherein said packets are redeemable coupons.

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~~21~~. The method of claim ¹⁷~~19~~, wherein said packets are selected from the group consisting of redeemable coupons, messages, appointment reminders, confirmations, tickets, warnings and written packets.

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~~22~~. A method for transmitting packets over a pager network to a network of remote printer appliances each having a unique appliance identification number, said method comprising the steps of:

developing a subscriber directory of all subscribers each including the appliance identification number of their printer appliance;

creating a packet to be dispatched to at least one of said recipients;

identifying the potential recipients for the packet;

coding said packet with the appliance identification number of the intended recipients;

transmitting said packet through a pager network to all of said potential recipients;

receiving said packet at all of said appliances; and

selectively processing and printing only those packets whose identification numbers match the appliance identification number.

²¹/~~23~~. The method of claim ²⁰/~~22~~, wherein said packets are redeemable coupons.

²²/~~24~~. The method of claim ²⁰/~~22~~, wherein said packets are selected from the group consisting of redeemable coupons, messages, appointment reminders, confirmations, tickets, warnings and written packets.